

SENATE BILL 813

By Ramsey

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 126 in Sullivan County in honor of the late Specialist Fourth Class Michael Edwin Harr, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Specialist Fourth Class Michael Edwin Harr, United States Army, who was killed in combat on April 15, 1969, while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Harr followed the patriotic tradition for which Sullivan County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Michael Edwin Harr was born on May 7, 1949, the only child of Clarence and Dorothy Harr, and joined the United States Army on June 20, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Harr was assigned to A Company of the 2ND Battalion, 27TH Infantry Regiment, 25TH Infantry Division and arrived in Vietnam on November 18, 1968. He was mortally wounded in action on April 15, 1969, in Vietnam's Tay Nanh province; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Harr was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster for his bravery and valor, the citation for the medal reading in part: "Specialist Harr, with complete disregard for his own safety, remained exposed as he placed heavy fire on the enemy. Specialist Harr remained at his post until the enemy virtually overran his position"; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Harr served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves

proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Specialist Harr did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and combat the spread of Communism; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Harr's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, Specialist Michael Edwin Harr selflessly gave his life for his country, and it is thus most appropriate that a certain bridge in his home county should be named to honor his memory; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, bridge number 82-126-13.88, which is located on State Route 126 between Barr Road and Isley Road in Sullivan County, is hereby designated the "Specialist Michael Edwin Harr Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Specialist Fourth Class Michael E. Harr, United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Specialist Michael Edwin Harr Memorial Bridge." The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.